

has already spent \$543 million to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings, including the requirement that power companies significantly reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The Utility is currently making separate plans for future investments in compliance with the EPA's new Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule, the first-ever rule for reducing mercury emissions. Today, the air in Michigan is clean, and the policies pursued by Consumers Energy will continue the forty year trend of improved air quality.

Consumers Energy operates in the belief that economic growth, energy demands, and environmental quality are inextricably linked. In the past 25 years, as our Nation's economy has expanded, demand for electricity and other forms of energy have substantially increased. At the same time, Consumer Energy consistently lowered emissions from its coal-fired power plants: the rate of nitrogen oxide emissions has been reduced 70 percent and the rate of sulfur dioxide emissions has been reduced 80 percent. Consumers Energy is actively planning to reduce these emissions even further as it implements the new Clean Air Interstate Rule. In addition, the company is preparing to implement the first-ever mandate to reduce mercury emissions under the Clean Air Mercury Rule. Consumers Energy is also participating with peer companies in the Administration's voluntary greenhouse gas reduction program to reduce carbon intensity, even though this greenhouse gas is not federally regulated.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to offer my highest praise to Consumers Energy for its extraordinary efforts to address air quality in the United States. This company's initiative and forethought will not only benefit the people of the Seventh District and the State of Michigan, but the United States as a whole.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on June 13 and 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent and rollcall votes 241–243. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 241—Yea; No. 242—Yea; No. 243—Yea.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of June 13, I missed three Rollcall votes.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on Rollcall votes 241 and 242.

It was my intention to vote:

“Yes” on Rollcall 241 for S. 643—A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State Mediation programs.

“Yes” on Rollcall 242 for H.R. 2326 to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office”.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### HONORING THE GRADUATING SIXTH-GRADE CLASS OF ATLANTIC AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its fundraising efforts to aid South-East Asia's tsunami victims during their epic crisis. The class's touching response to an event half a world away reflects the students' broad horizons and a mature appreciation for how connected we are to others.

In response to the tsunami, these students organized a spirit week with fun activities requiring a donation to participate. During the course of this week, under Mrs. Elizabeth Smith's leadership, Jacquelyn Andrews, Claudia Biddle, Peter Capano, Tyler Carr, Caitlin Cohen, Tyler Franceschini, George Gans, Gregory Gardner, Theodore Hagenbucher, Benjamin Huber, McKenna Knoetner, Marisa Konopka, Nichole Landis, Joshua Matchett, Angela Mongoni, Alexander Oswald, Jillian Pauls, Kathleen Quinn, John-Patrick Rabena, Yelaila Ramos, Andrew Snyder, Tori Southern, Michael Wasienko, and Samantha Wentz, significantly surpassed their fundraising goals and raised an incredible \$1000 to help those in need. These students have grown into empathetic citizens and will continue to contribute their extraordinary talents to the betterment of humankind. In their dedication, ability, and contribution to the tsunami relief effort, the sixth graders of Mrs. Smith's class are an inspiration to students everywhere, and indeed to all citizens of the Great Nation of the United States of America.

On June 17, 2005, Mrs. Smith's class will be joined by family and friends to celebrate graduation to junior high school. I am certain that they will carry proud memories of their admirable efforts throughout their lives. I congratulate the graduating sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its noble fundraising efforts, and look forward to the continued success of these future leaders.

#### HONORING THE MURFREESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS SAFETY EXCELLENCE

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of men and women who work together to protect and educate their community about fire safety: the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Fire Department.

The department has earned the Achievement Award for Excellence in Fire Safety from the Tennessee Municipal League.

Each day, these men and women put their lives on the line to protect and help their community. They have joined with Murfreesboro Police and Emergency Medical Services to establish a top-notch first-responder program.

Residents of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, can be proud of their fire department for receiving such a prestigious award. I congratulate each member of the department for making my hometown a safe and exceptional place to live and raise a family.

#### IN MEMORIAM

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the editorial page of The Richmond Times-Dispatch of Richmond, Virginia, recently carried the names of all the service men and women from Virginia who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom from September 11, 2001, through May 29, 2005.

I submit for the RECORD a copy of the editorial, titled, “In Memoriam.” Words cannot express the appreciation of a grateful nation to the families of these brave men and women.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Virginians who have died in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in America's defense since September 11, 2001—listed in the order of their death. R.I.P.:

Marine Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr., 31, of Richmond.

Marine Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, 23, of Troutville.

Army Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield.

Air Force Maj. William R. Watkins, III, 37, of Danville.

Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor, 24, of Clifton.

Marine Lance Cpl. David Edward Owens, Jr., 20, of Winchester.

Army Pvt. Jason L. Deibler, 20, of Coeburn.

Army Sgt. Michael E. Dooley, 23, of Pulaski.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. John R. Teal, 31, of Mechanicsville.

Army 1st Lt. Joshua C. Hurley, 24, of Clifton Forge.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael J. Gray, 32, of Richmond.

Army Spc. Frank K. Rivers, Jr., 23, of Woodbridge.

Army Pfc. Andrew L. Tuazon, 21, of Chesapeake.

Army 2nd Lt. Leonard M. Cowherd, 22, of Culpeper.

Marine Pfc. Michael M. Carey, 20, of Prince George.

Army Spc. Leslie D. Jackson, 18, of Richmond.

Army Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan, 27, of Bristow.

Army Spc. Jeremy M. Dimaranan, 29, of Virginia Beach.

Army Staff Sgt. Gregory V. Pennington, 36, of Glade Spring.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert K. McGee, 38, of Martinsville.

Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, of Burke.